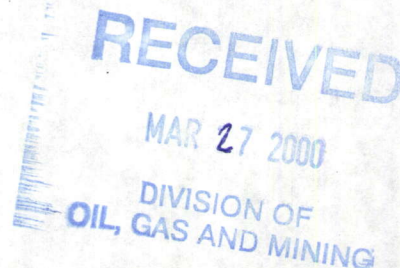


3 mcopy
March 13, 2000

Glenn A. Carpenter, Field Office Manager
Bureau of Land Management
2370 South 2300 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119



Re: Your letter of 3.6 concerning road work.

Greetings,

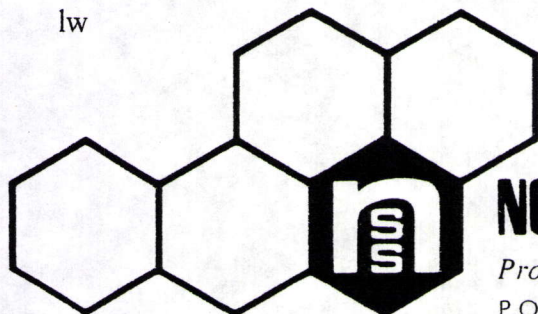
We have had communication on this issue for almost two months now. I have explained several times that this was not "new road" construction. We urgently needed to re grade and contour the old (40 yr. prox.) road to eliminate erosion and drainage problems. It was also urgent and important that we re route a 200 ft. section that was continually rutted and subject to wash outs because it was not done properly in the beginning. All of this was accomplished in about 4 hours by our expert operator back in January. The road looks, and is, 100% better now that the work has been accomplished. The short section of the old road will soon be covered with new soil, and properly graded out to blend in with the surroundings.

On January 26th I had a conversation with Janice Machipiness and she promised to take care of all of the necessary paper work so this issue could be resolved within 30 days or less. I have never heard from her again. I have a business to run and if we moved at the speed of the B.L.M. I would be dead broke in a year. We have not harmed the land, in fact we are always improving the surroundings and running first class operations when the other operators in our business are destroying the surroundings. Over the years I have watched this (30 years here in Idaho and Utah) and have yet to see one single piece of ripped up land improved or restored by the other operators. I have photographed, documented, and written many, many letters concerning this issue. Please, let's get realistic on this issue, get it resolved, and spend some money and energy curtailing the rampant violators. Anytime you wish, I will be glad to show you the areas I am talking about. I have taken B.L.M. personell by the hand, several times over the course of the years, but nothing happens. If you have questions or wish to meet please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Gary Mullard
President

lw



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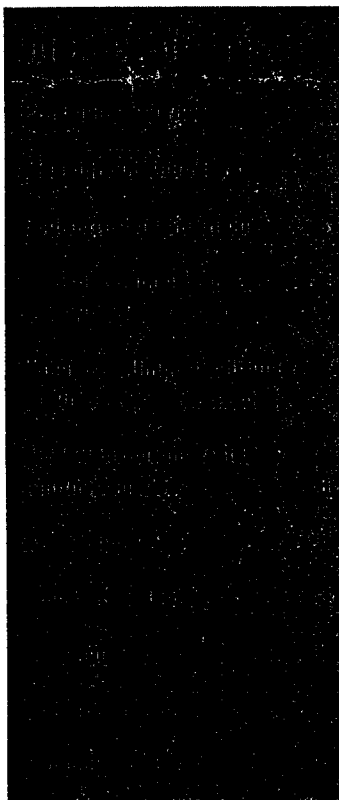
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BULLETIN

Northwest Mining Association

The U.S. Mining Industry & the 106th Congress

Llee Chapman, Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Member, NWMA Board of Trustees



The U.S. mining industry produces the metals and minerals that our society requires and uses in every aspect of their lives. Our industry represents all 50 states, several million jobs, billions of dollars of employee earnings, more than \$80 billion of dollars in federal, state and local tax revenues, and a favorable balance of trade. Yet, despite the admirable statistics, our industry is shrinking in terms of investment, employment, and opportunity.

Why? The U.S. mining industry (and the citizens of the United States) needs Congress to reaffirm the principle of separation of powers and reclaim its constitutional responsibility as the elected representatives of the people to legislate.

Currently, we operate in uncertain times. The mine permitting process has become an overt political exercise fraught with uncertainties and delays. Examples, such as Safford in Arizona, Rock Creek and Montanore in Montana, and Crown Jewel in Washington, where the permitting process has taken anywhere from five to fifteen years are far too numerous. The 1872 Mining Law, which we have grown to depend on, is being ignored and changed administratively without the benefit of input from the people, appropriate science, or congressional oversight.

We need the Congress to take back its Constitutional duty as our lawmakers and:

1. Enact legislation that nullifies the Solicitor's 1997 Mill Site Opinion. It is important that Congress understands that Solicitor Leshy's millsite opinion is not now, and never has been the law. Nothing in the Mining Law even suggests a one-to-one millsite-to-lode claim ratio.

2. Enact legislation to limit the re-write of the 3809 regulations to conform to the National Academy of Sciences report

3. Reform the NEPA process to provide firm time guidelines, deadlines, and accountability to the process. The current political climate makes it very difficult for federal regulators to dismiss comments that

lack foundation and merit. This often leads to misinformation, protracted public debates over mining operations, unnecessary expenditures of public resources, and enormous costs to the industry.

4. Enact legislation to remove the disincentives to voluntary Abandoned Mine Lands reclamation and clean up by enacting "good Samaritan" protection for anyone who is willing to assist (liability provisions in the Superfund - CERCLA and Clean Water Act are quite punitive and counterproductive).

5. It is time for Congress to pass reasonable and constructive amendments to the 1872 Mining Law. These amendments should provide for a fair royalty, security of title throughout the project life, and the establishment of an Abandoned Mines reclamation fund.

Land withdrawals by executive order are getting out of hand. Currently, we must deal with the reality of having anywhere up to 14 *NEW* National monuments and up to 60 million acres declared "roadless" in the National Forests. All without due representation and absent due process. Access to the vast amounts of public land is of paramount importance to all industries who provide natural resources to our citizens. There is a balance out there and we must work with Congress to find it. People **MUST** be part of the equation.

A Government's greatest challenge is to work for the benefit of society as a whole, not just a vocal minority. A constant vigilance must be adhered to when making regulations, levying taxes, and determining policy by asking, "Does this action really benefit society?" Stability is what industry and any business looks for in good government. Is our investment safe? Can we depend on this government to follow through? Can we count on a government to regulate fairly? Are good science and common sense part of the decision making process?



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Continued on page 3

U.S. Mining Industry (Continued)

Environmental stewardship is all of our responsibility. It is true that we only have one earth and we must ensure that it continues to feed and shelter all of humanity. However, in our enthusiasm to protect our planet from ourselves we must insist that all governments understand that **POVERTY IS THE ENEMY**. Good intentions and feel good policies cannot sustain a healthy and clean environment if too many citizens around the globe are concerned where their next meal will come from, if it comes at all.

All that we have comes from the earth. Our standard of living is derived from the earth. The mining industry is simply a tool used to create the greatest standard of living that humans can be afforded. The industry must continue to thrive in order to ensure that the 47,000 pounds of minerals that each and every one of us use annually on a per capita basis are available and that poverty as we know it is eliminated.

Congress must take the lead now to ensure that the United States of America remains a good place to do business. Society's demand for mineral products is increasing at a very rapid rate. Supplying those minerals is an international business requiring billions of dollars in investment over very long periods of time. A strong government with the proper checks and balances will result in a higher standard of living for our citizens and a cleaner environment for all.

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